

SUDBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

G. HEYWOOD HERBERT,

Medical Officer of Health.

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

UTTOXETER.

May, 1926.

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UTTOXETER,

May 5th, 1926.

GENTLEMEN,

I again have the honour of presenting my Annual Report for the Sudbury Rural District for the year 1925, which this year has to be a survey report.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The area of the district is 17,299 acres.

The population in 1921 was 2,537, and for the middle of the year 1925 it has been estimated at 2,523.

The general character of the district is essentially rural, and comprises the seven small villages of Sudbury, Doveridge, Marston, Norbury, Cubley, Boylestone and Somersal, with populations varying from 749 in Doveridge to 70 in Somersal.

The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 587, and the number of separate families was 591.

The rateable value of the district is £30,322, the sum represented by a penny rate being £63 10s.

The only principal occupation is agriculture and milk production.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—During the year there have been 54 births in and belonging to the district, the sex proportion being 27 boys and 27 girls. This is almost exactly the average for the last five years, and shows a birth rate of 21·40.

There were four illegitimate births.

Deaths.—There were 31 deaths. This is nearly two above the average, and gives a death rate of 12·29.

infantile Mortality.—Four infants died under one year of age, which is an infantile mortality rate of 74·1.

There was one death from measles, which gives a mortality rate of '39 for infectious diseases.

There were two deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, which gives a phthisis death rate of '79. There was also one death from tubercular meningitis.

The other principal causes of death were:—cancer, 2; rheumatic fever, 1; diabetes, 2; brain diseases, 5; heart disease, 1; bronchitis, 1; pneumonia, 4; nephritis, 1; suicide, 3; accidentally drowned, 1; and other causes, 6.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Poor Law Relief.—The area is in the Uttoxeter Poor Law Union, and necessitous cases are sent to the Uttoxeter Workhouse Infirmary.

There are not any hospitals in the district.

Cases of tuberculosis can be sent to the various county sanatoria.

Maternity cases requiring institutional treatment can be taken at the County Maternity Home at Ashbourne by arrangement.

There is no provision for hospital for children.

Infectious diseases are sent to the Isolation Hospital at Etwall when necessary.

There is no provision for cases of small pox.

Other cases and accidents requiring special treatment are usually sent to the Royal Infirmary at Derby.

There is a motor ambulance at Sudbury available for parts of the district. Ambulance accommodation for infectious cases is provided by the isolation hospital.

There are not any maternity and child welfare centres in the district, but a welfare centre has been started at Snelston to which mothers and children from Norbury come. It is held once a fortnight and is doing good work.

There are not any school clinics, tuberculosis dispensaries or treatment centres for venereal diseases in the district.

Nursing.—There are district nurses in each of the villages of Sudbury, Doveridge and Norbury, supported by voluntary nursing associations. There are no arrangements for nursing infectious cases. These district nurses also act as midwives in their respective villages. There are also two bona-fide midwives in Marston and Cubley, but an extra district nurse midwife should be provided to work in the three adjoining villages of Cubley, Marston and Boylestone.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply.—Sudbury is well-provided by Lord Vernon's water supply, which goes to most of the houses in the village; the outlying parts have their own wells.

DOVERIDGE.—There are three public pumps in the village, but the water supply for Doveridge, the largest village in the district, is not good.

A few houses get a supply from the Somersal springs which pass through the village to Uttoxeter, and I think the whole of this source should be procured, if possible, to give an efficient supply for most of the village.

The other villages of Marston, Cubley, Norbury and Boylestone, are supplied by public and private pumps and wells, and on the whole the supply is fairly good.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Sudbury have a sewerage scheme of filter beds; most of the houses in the village have water closets connected thereto.

Doveridge also have a sewerage scheme of filter beds which provides for part of the village. A few of the houses have water closets, and I hope when the village has a proper water supply there will be a considerable conversion into water closets in other parts of the village.

The rest of the district have privies and pail closets, but as there is no public scavenging these have to be emptied by the occupiers.

The Sanitary Inspector reports twenty-four cases of defective drains, closets and other nuisances which he has inspected; no formal notices were served, but most of the defects were remedied.

He also reports the conversion of two pail closets into water closets.

There are no common lodging houses or offensive trades in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are fifteen workshops which have been inspected as usual, and no defects found.

THE SCHOOLS.

The general sanitary condition of the public elementary schools is fairly good.

During the last five years the Boylestone school has had better ventilation and heating provided and the closets improved. At Doveridge school the closets have been converted into water closets, but are dependent on rain water for flushing till the village gets a proper water supply. Marston school still requires better ventilation.

The water supply in the schools is bad. Sudbury is the only school with a water supply on the premises; the other schools have to fetch water from adjacent pumps.

School Closure.—During the year Marston school was closed from May 26th to June 8th on account of an epidemic of measles.

HOUSING.

The general housing conditions are good for a rural district.

There is not much shortage of houses, and the population is decreasing.

According to the census of 1921 in respect of room accommodation the Sudbury Rural District stands one of the highest in the County with an average of 6'07, and is 15'3 per cent. above the standard basis for England and Wales.

There have not been any cases of overcrowding reported.

The standard of the houses is fairly satisfactory, the principal defects being want of through ventilation, insufficiency of water supply and closet accommodation.

Housing Statistics.—There has not been any housing scheme adopted. The number of new houses built during the year is one with subsidy assistance.

The number of houses inspected was 18: of these, two were found to be not in all respects fit for habitation, but have since been put in order. No formal notices were served, but five houses were repaired voluntarily.

No closing orders were made.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.—A large amount of milk is produced in the district, which goes principally to the milk factories at Tutbury, Ashbourne and Uttoxeter.

There are 185 registered cowkeepers in the district; the premises and sheds have been visited by the Sanitary Inspector, and on the whole found satisfactory.

Meat Supply.—There are no public slaughter-houses, but there are three private ones, which have been inspected twelve times, and no defects reported.

There are two bakehouses, which have been inspected as usual.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the last five years there have been twelve cases of scarlet fever, occurring principally in Doveridge in 1922, and were of a very mild type; one case of puerperal fever; one case of encephalitis lethargica, which was imported into the district, and proved fatal; six cases of pneumonia; and slight epidemics of measles, mumps and chicken-pox.

There have not been any cases of ophthalmia noenatorum in the last five years.

During the year 1925 there have been notified one case of scarlet fever, which was sent to Etwall Isolation Hospital; two cases of pneumonia; and twelve cases of chicken-pox.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year one case of pulmonary and one of glandular tuberculosis have been notified.

As previously mentioned, there were two deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis (one of these, however, was a man who had only recently come into the district), and one from tubercular meningitis.

Yours faithfully,

G. HEYWOOD HERBERT.

